

**Fairfax County Park Authority  
Board Meeting  
March 9, 2005**

The Chairman convened the meeting at 7:50 p.m. at Park Authority Headquarters, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, Virginia 22035.

**Board Members**

Harold L. Strickland, Chairman  
Joanne E. Malone, Vice Chairman<sup>1</sup>  
Frank S. Vajda, Secretary-Treasurer  
Edward R. Batten, Sr.  
William G. Bouie  
Kevin J. Fay<sup>1</sup>  
Kenneth G. Feng<sup>2</sup>  
Harrison A. Glasgow  
Georgette Kohler  
George E. Lovelace  
Gilbert S. McCutcheon  
Winifred S. Shapiro

<sup>1</sup>Board Members Absent

<sup>2</sup> Arrived at 8:10 p.m.

Guest: Mrs. Regina Bouie  
John T. Frey, Clerk to Circuit  
Court of Fairfax County

**Staff**

Michael A. Kane, Director  
Timothy K. White, Deputy Director  
Nancy L. Brumit, Administrative Assistant

Charlie Bittenbring  
Bob Brennan  
Brian Daly  
Cindy Messinger  
Miriam Morrison  
Judy Pedersen  
Lynn Tadlock

Seema Ajrawat  
Angie Allen  
Nick Duray  
Peter Furey  
Doreen Henry  
Mary Hoffman  
Kirk Holley  
John Lehman  
Steve Lewis  
Patty Paczan  
Tammy Schwab  
Don Sweeney  
Cindy Walsh  
Alicia Ward  
Ted Zavora

**AGENDA CHANGES**

Mr. Strickland asked if there were any changes to the Agenda. Mr. Kane distributed the **REVISED** March 9, 2005 Agenda and requested that A-4 FY 2006 Fund 170, Park Revenue Fund Add-On Request to the Advertised Budget be added. Mr. Kane requested that CLOSED SESSION for Land Acquisition and Adoption of Closed Session Minutes be cancelled. **There were no objections from the Park Authority Board.**

**SWEARING IN CEREMONY – March 9, 2005 at 7:30 p.m.****Appointment of William G. Bouie.**

Mr. Strickland introduced John T. Frey, Clerk to the Circuit Court of Fairfax County, who administered the Oath of Office to William G. Bouie.

Mr. Bouie was appointed to serve as the Hunter Mill District Representative on the Park Authority Board. Mr. Bouie's appointment fills an unexpired term, which will expire on December 31, 2008.

**OTHER MATTERS**

On behalf of the Park Authority Board, Mr. Strickland welcomed Mr. Bouie.

**PRESENTATION ITEM****P-1                    Cub Run RECenter Marketing Plan**

Ms. Henry and Mr. Bittenbring presented plans for an initial marketing and awareness campaign for the opening of Cub Run RECenter. Information included an overview of the strategies planned to build awareness and use. Anticipated opening day activities were also highlighted.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ITEM****ADMIN-1           Adoption of Minutes – February 9 and February 23, 2005 Park Authority Board Meetings**

Mr. Vajda **MOVED** the Park Authority Board accept the minutes of the February 9 and February 23, 2005, Park Authority Board meetings; **SECONDED** by Mr. Glasgow and **APPROVED** with Ms. Malone and Mr. Fay being absent and Mr. Feng not having arrived yet. Being absent from the February 9, 2005 Park Authority Board meeting, Mr. Batten **ABSTAINED** from the vote for that date. Mr. Bouie **ABSTAINED**; this evening was his first meeting as a Park Authority Board Member.

There was no discussion on this item.

**Park Authority Board Minutes Approved and Signed on March 23, 2005**

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **A-1 Contract Award – Open End Contracts for Civil Engineering and Related Services**

This item was reviewed by the Planning and Development Committee on March 2, 2005 and approved for submission to the Park Authority Board.

Mr. Lovelace **MOVED** the Park Authority Board approve the open end contract awards to the firms of Bowman Consulting Group, Ltd., Burgess & Niple Inc., Greenhorne & O'Mara Inc., and Patton, Harris, Rust & Associates P. C. for civil engineering and related services needed to accomplish the projects in 2004 Park Bond Program. Each firm will be awarded a contract in the not to exceed amount of \$400,000 for a term of one (1) year. The contracts are renewable for two (2) additional one-year terms at the option of the Park Authority Board; **SECONDED** by Mr. Glasgow and **APPROVED** with Ms. Malone and Mr. Fay being absent and Mr. Feng not having arrived yet.

There was no discussion on this item.

### **A-2 Authorization to Hold a Public Hearing on the Proposed Master Plan Revision for Sully Historic Site**

This item was reviewed by the Planning and Development Committee on March 2, 2005 and approved for submission to the Park Authority Board.

Mr. Vajda **MOVED** the Park Authority Board authorize a public hearing to present the Master Plan Revision for Sully Historic Site to the public; **SECONDED** by Mr. Glasgow and **APPROVED** with Ms. Malone and Mr. Fay being absent and Mr. Feng not having arrived yet.

There was no discussion on this item.

**A-3                    Approval – Proposed 2005 Fee Adjustments to the Park Authority's Published Fee Schedule**

This item was reviewed by the Park Services Committee on March 2, 2005 and approved for submission to the Park Authority Board.

Mr. McCutcheon **MOVED** the Park Authority Board approve all proposed fee adjustments as advertised with the exception of the senior fee discount policy proposal and a change in conditions under which the synthetic turf athletic field fees shall apply, as follows:

- 1) approve the following change in conditions under which the synthetic turf athletic field fees shall apply – fees are applicable annually from the Monday after the third Sunday in November through the end of February.
- 2) approve the following alternative to the advertised senior fee discount proposal – phase-in a reduced senior and youth discount level to 45% in year 1, 40% in year 3 and 35% in year 5, along with an increase in the age of senior discount eligibility from 60 to 65 over the same five year period;
- 3) over the course of the five-year implementation period for recommendation 3, evaluate and report related use impacts to the Board annually before proceeding with each successive stage of the implementation.

The MOTION was **SECONDED** by Mr. Lovelace.

Mr. Strickland reviewed the Park Authority efforts for public notification of the fee proposal and meetings by bringing the board's attention to the second paragraph of the BACKGROUND in this board item which reads.

Public notification of the fee proposal and public comment meeting included: distribution of press releases to news organizations, advertisement and distribution of the fee proposal at park sites and on the Park Authority's web site. Public comments were initially solicited in writing via letter, fax and e-mail between January 17 and February 15, 2005 with a public comment meeting on February 2, 2005. The comment period was subsequently extended to February 28, 2005 at the request of the Board of Supervisors. In addition to the public comment meeting, Park Authority representatives were also asked to discuss the senior fee discount proposal in a meeting with citizens at the Lee District Supervisor's office (February 9) and with the Commission on Aging (February 16).

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Mr. Strickland reviewed the senior's most common reasons for opposing the senior fee proposal and emphasized the compromise proposal to adjust the senior discount for facility use and program fees.

Recommended Senior Fee Discount Action: over a five-year period, phase-in a reduced senior and youth discount level beginning with a discount reduction to 45% in year 1, 40% in year 3 and 35% in year 5, along with an increase in the age of senior discount eligibility from 60 to 65 over the same five year period.

Key features of the recommendation include the following:

1. Reduce the current senior discount level from 50% to 45% this year, 40% in 2007 and then 35% in 2009. This implementation meets citizen concerns expressed in the comment period by adjusting the discount more gradually and by stopping the reduction in the discount at 35% rather than proceeding to 25%. With each 5% reduction in the senior discount representing \$175,000 annually, this alternative also reduces the Park Authority's financial exposure considerably.
2. Raise the age of eligibility for the senior discount in successive one-year increments from age 60 to age 65 between 2005 and 2009. Increasing the age of eligibility is the action that has the broadest public support. Each successive one-year increase in eligibility would represent \$100,000 annually. (Note: this feature of the recommendation would enable all of those currently eligible for a senior discount to remain eligible in the future.)
3. Reduce the 50% youth discount rate in RECenter admissions/passes and golf passes in the same manner that the senior discount rate is reduced (from 50% to 45% in 2005, 40% in 2007 and then 35% in 2009). Many seniors felt that this was a necessary quid pro quo, and that reducing the senior discount without a companion reduction in the youth discount would be inequitable.

4. While approval is sought in principle for the entire five-year adjustment, it is also recognized that the usage impact of the adjustment should be evaluated annually before the Board makes its decision whether or not to proceed with each successive stage of the implementation. And that the Board reserves the right to discontinue or delay implementation if usage has been adversely impacted. Staff will evaluate use and sales impacts within the youth and senior age groups in the major use categories (admissions, passes, registration) and report the results to the Board, prior to the Board making its decision on whether or not to proceed with the next step of implementation.

Annual fiscal impact of the senior fee recommendation over the five-year phase-in period is as follows:

Year 1: \$ 299,200	Year 4: \$ 798,400
Year 2: \$ 399,200	Year 5: \$ 1,097,600
Year 3: \$ 698,400	

This information was derived from the multi-option matrix that was used to examine the impact of various alternatives involving discount reductions and/or increased age eligibility.

Recommended Change in Conditions – Synthetic Turf Athletic Field Fees. The fee recommendation also includes a change in conditions under which the proposed synthetic turf athletic field fees apply; namely, that these fees are applicable annually from the Monday after the third Sunday in November through the end of February. The conditions, as originally advertised, included application of the fees “through the Friday before the last Saturday in March” every year. The change makes application of these fees more consistent with the Department of Community and Recreation Services (DCRS) field scheduling season, and is designed to coincide with the time of the year that DCRS does not schedule fields.

Looking at this as a purely business plan, Mr. Strickland requested staff to update the Park Authority Board by preparing an annual analysis report indicating the cause and effects of taking this action. This will allow the Park Authority Board to verify the validity prior to proceeding with each successive stage of the implementation.

After Board discussion, the MOTION was **APPROVED** with Ms. Malone and Mr. Fay being absent.

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Mr. Strickland stated that staff and the Park Authority Board has done a good job in accepting what has moved forward here, which is in direct response to what the citizens have been telling us.

**A-4 FY 2006 Fund 170 Park Revenue Fund Add-On Request to the Advertised Budget**

This item was reviewed by the Budget Committee on February 23, 2005, and approved for submission to the Park Authority Board.

Mr. Batten **MOVED** the Park Authority Board approve the Add-On Request to the FY 2006 Fund 170, Park Revenue Advertised Budget; **SECONDED** by Mr. Vajda and **APPROVED** with Ms. Malone and Mr. Fay being absent.

There was no discussion on this item.

**INFORMATION ITEM**

**I-1 Manassas Battlefield Bypass Draft Environmental Impact Study and Section 4(f) Evaluation**

This item was reviewed by the Planning and Development Committee on March 2, 2005 and approved for submission to the Park Authority Board.

The board reviewed the item regarding Manassas Battlefield Bypass Draft Environmental Impact Study and Section 4(f) Evaluation. No action was necessary. There was no discussion on this item.

**I-2 FY 2005 Midyear Update – Fund 370, Park Authority Bond Construction and Fund 371, Park Capital Improvement Fund**

This item was reviewed by the Planning and Development Committee on March 2, 2005 and approved for submission to the Park Authority Board.

The board reviewed the item regarding FY 2005 Midyear Update – Fund 370, Park Authority Bond Construction and Fund 371, Park Capital Improvement Fund. No action was necessary. There was no discussion on this item.

**I-3                    Expanded Operating Hours Program at Lee District, Mt. Vernon, Oak Marr and Providence RECenters**

This item was reviewed by the Park Services Committee on March 2, 2005 and approved for submission to the Park Authority Board.

The board reviewed the item regarding Expanded Operating Hours Program at Lee District, Mt. Vernon, Oak Marr and Providence RECenters.

**Staff will implement the adjustments to operating hours as outlined in the item. There were no objections from the Park Authority Board**

**CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS**

- **Summary – Board of Supervisors /Fairfax County Park Authority Joint Meeting on March 7, 2005**

Mr. Strickland reported that the joint meeting went well and commended staff for their excellent presentations. Mr. Strickland summarized the Board of Supervisors/Fairfax County Park Authority Joint Meeting, which was held on March 7, 2005 as follows:

1. Community Connections - Supervisor Gross expressed her concerns regarding the changing use patterns in parks and stated that she would be asking the Board of Supervisors to add the Community Connecting Program to the FY 2006 consideration item list. (Later in the day the Board of Supervisors did agree to add the program to the FY 2006 consideration list.)
2. Bright Futures - Chairman Connolly expressed his appreciation for the Park Authority and the Park Foundation for taking the initiative in developing the Bright Futures program to aid in taking 1,000 kids off the streets for the summer and providing them meaningful summer camp experiences. Chairman Connolly stated that he would assist the Park Foundation with seeking funding from the private sector.
3. Land Acquisition Goal - Chairman Connolly stated that while, with the assistance from the Board of Supervisors, the Park Authority has grown its land holding to over 9.2% of the county, he would like to have the Park Authority adopt a goal of owning 10% of the land area of Fairfax County. (To reach that goal 1,766 acres of land would have to be added to the system.)
4. Ox Hill Battlefield Park - Chairman Connolly spoke to the unique nature of some of the Park Authority property in that the Park Authority owns the most significant Fairfax County Battlefield from the Civil War. Ox Hill Battlefield Park is what remains of that battlefield. Chairman Connolly would like the Park Authority to re-think its interpretive displays shown in the recently approved master plan to create more of an "interpretive center" rather than a kiosk. Chairman Connolly also stated that the Park Authority should add a request to the federal legislative package for funding of this project.

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5. Park features for pre-school age children - Supervisor McConnell asked that the Park Authority consider making park development more attractive by adding features that are specific to pre-school age children.
6. Proffers from 'P' Districts - Supervisor Kauffman expressed concerns that proffer funds recorded from properties in the 'P' districts can only be used for 'active recreation' and not for passive activity or historic structures.

- **Park Authority Board Calendar dated March 9, 2005**

Mr. Strickland reviewed the board calendar. Mr. Strickland requested board members to make an effort to attend the upcoming Difficult Run Community (3/15/05) and the Cub Run Community (3/19/05) Watershed Forums as well as the Sport Forum (3/13/05).

- **Athletic Field User Fees**

Mr. Strickland reported that some members of the Board of Supervisors are looking to see if the dollars collected could be used for athletic fields instead of the general fund. One option was that the money be used to construct additional artificial turf fields. The greatest need is for rectangular fields and most of the funds come from the use of rectangular fields.

Mr. Strickland stated that he will discuss this issue with George Lovelace, Park Authority liaison to the Athletic Council, since a motion will come up at the next Athletic Council meeting. The Athletic Council will be seeking Park Authority Board support and partnership if the Board of Supervisors decides to direct the athletic field use fees for construction of artificial turf fields.

After Board discussion, Mr. Lovelace stated that he would be receiving the information from the Athletic Council and bringing it back to the Park Authority Board to continue discussions. **There were no objections from the Park Authority Board.**

- **Upcoming Events**

Mr. Strickland noted that he had sent the board members an email correspondence regarding the Park Board Vision and Strategies Workshop scheduled for April 6 at 5:00 p.m., and an outreach awareness program. He indicated that he would like the board to be prepared to discuss both items on April 6.

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**DIRECTOR'S MATTERS**

- **Board of Supervisors Budget Committee Schedule**

Mr. Kane reminded the Park Authority Board that the Board of Supervisors Budget Committee is meeting on March 18, March 28 and April 15, 2005. Staff will be present to answer questions about any consideration items or any discussion on park items. Mr. Kane invited Board Members to demonstrate their support for the programs that will be on the table by attending.

Mr. Kane stated that his understanding is that the March 28 Budget Committee meeting will be dedicated to schools and that there is a joint Board of Supervisors/School Board meeting immediately prior to the Board of Supervisors Budget Committee meeting. NOTE: Later in the week, the March 28 joint Board of Supervisors/School Board meeting was cancelled and rescheduled to Monday, May 16, 2005 at 4:00 p.m. The location will be determined at a later date.

- **Lewinsville Park**

Mr. Kane reported that on Monday, February 28, the Park Authority received notice from Senior Assistant County Attorney Jan Brodie that the Supreme Court of Virginia had awarded the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) and the West Lewinsville Heights Citizens Association an appeal from a judgment rendered by the Circuit Court of Fairfax County in the Lewinsville Park cases.

The BZA and the Lewinsville HOA have 40 days from the granting of the appeal to file their briefs, which would be on or before April 5, 2005. The County will have 25 days from the date they file to file the County's briefs.

The BZA and Lewinsville HOA are then permitted to file a reply brief to our brief within 14 days of the County's filing.

Mr. Kane reported that no date for the hearing has been set, but it will likely be in September. The Park Authority is fortunately going to Richmond with a favorable ruling from the Circuit Court and a presumption of correctness.

- **Out of the Office**

Mr. Kane reminded the Board that he would be out of the office from March 14 through March 18 attending the Business Institute for Revenue Development and Management in Oglebay, West Virginia. Mr. Kane stated that in his capacity as member of the Business Institute's Board of Regents he would be instructing fellow park and recreation professionals in the revenue development and management aspects of the parks and recreation field.

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Further, as a member of the board of the Southeast Region of the NRPA, Mr. Kane reported that he would be attending the 2005 Southeast Regional Conference in Greensboro, North Carolina, from April 10-14.

Mr. Kane stated that Tim White will serve as point of contact for the director's office during his absences.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS AND SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS FOR THE RECORD**

**NOTE: No committee minutes were entered FOR THE RECORD at this meeting. Committee minutes are entered FOR THE RECORD during the second Park Authority Board meeting each month.**

### **BOARD MATTERS**

- **Joanne E. Malone**  
Ms. Malone was absent.
- **Frank S. Vajda**  
Mr. Vajda noted that the board members should have received an invitation to the 2005 Stewardship Awards for the Resource Management Division to recognize outstanding staff performance. He reminded the board to RSVP to Mona Enquist-Johnston by March 16. Mr. Vajda asked Mrs. Brumit to add the item on the board calendar. The event will be held on Tuesday, April 5, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at Ellmore Farm at Frying Pan Park.
- **Gilbert S. McCutcheon**  
Mr. McCutcheon had no Board Matters.
- **Kenneth G. Feng**  
Mr. Feng had no Board Matters.
- **Winifred S. Shapiro**  
Mrs. Shapiro had no Board Matters.
- **Kevin J. Fay**  
Mr. Fay was absent.

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- **Edward R. Batten, Sr.**

Mr. Batten reported that the stakeholders committee for the Policy Plan for Parks and Recreation met earlier in the day and discussed a number of issues that have arisen before the Planning Commission hearing. One concern is that the Park Authority is beginning to get some feedback from a number of organizations, including the McLean Citizens' Association (MCA), that are not in favor of what we are attempting to do. The board needs to make certain that all of our planning commissioners as well as members of the Board of Supervisors are fully aware of and conversant with what it has done and are planning to do regarding the Policy Plan. The presentations will be made to the Planning Commission on March 16 and to the Board of Supervisors on May 9.

Both he and Mr. Glasgow have been asked to encourage the Park Authority Board members, if they had not already done so, to speak to their respective members of the Planning Commission as soon as possible. The members of the Park Authority Board were also asked to have conversations with their respective Supervisors if they had not already done so.

Mr. Batten asked the board members to contact any organizations, citizens associations, homeowners associations, land use and transportation advisory committees and to please encourage them to provide us with positive comments regarding the Policy Plan amendment.

- **Georgette Kohler**

Ms. Kohler had no Board Matters.

- **George E. Lovelace**

Mr. Lovelace had no Board Matters.

- **Harrison A. Glasgow**

Mr. Glasgow had no Board Matters.

- **William G. Bouie**

Mr. Bouie stated that he was happy to be part of the Park Authority Board.

- **There were no other BOARD MATTERS reported.**

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**CLOSED SESSION was cancelled.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:54 p.m. Mr. McCutcheon **MOVED** that the Park Authority Board meeting be adjourned;  
**SECONDED** by Mr. Lovelace and **APPROVED** with Ms. Malone and Mr. Fay being absent.

Minutes Approved at Meeting  
on March 23, 2005

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Frank S. Vajda  
Secretary-Treasurer

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Michael A. Kane, Director

Park Authority Board Minutes prepared by

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Nancy L. Brumit, Administrative Assistant

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